

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANA 02301 180841Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 DHA-02 COME-00 ACDA-07 /078 W
-----180845Z 129244 /15

R 151400Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1538
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL SANA 2301

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT, YE
SUBJECT: RECENT ARRESTS OF TERRORISTS

1. IN CONVERSATION ON JUNE 13, MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD ABDU SAID TOLD ME THAT YARG SECURITY FORCES HAVE RECENTLY CARRIED OUT ARRESTS OF SEVERAL FORMER ARMY PERSONNEL ON CHARGES OF SABOTAGE AND TERRORISM. SAID SAID THAT THE INDIVIDUALS TRIED TO BLOW UP YARG AIR FORCE PLANES IN HODEIDAH AS WELL AS AUTOMOBILES OF YEMENI OFFICIALS HERE IN SANA. SAID WENT ON THAT THE MEN HAVE CONFESSED AND HAVE ADMITTED THEY WERE WORKING FOR MUJAHID ABU SHUWARIB, BORTHER-IN-LAW OF SHAYKH ABDALLAH BIN HUSAYN AL-AHMAR. SAID COMMENTED THAT IT IS ACTIONS SUCH AS THESE WHICH MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE CENTRAL REGIME NOT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE RING-LEADERS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT AL-HAMDI IS STILL HOPING TO SETTLE HIS DIFFERENCES WITH THE NORTHERN SHAYKHS IN A PEACEFUL MANNER, THUS AVOIDING OPEN CONFRONTATION IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. SAID OBSERVED THAT IN THIS REGARD HE AND OTHERS IN THE YEMENI REGIME CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE SAUDIS COULD PUT PRESSURE ON AL-AHMAR TO RECONCILE HIMSELF WITH AL-HAMDI BUT THUS FAR NOTHING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DONE. SAID ADMITTED THAT THE SENIOR SAUDI LEADERSHIP

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IS FULLY SUPPORTING AL-HAMDI BUT HE WONDERED IF OTHER SAUDIS ARE FOLLOWING THE OFFICIAL SAUDI LINE VIS-A-VIS AL-HAMDI AND YEMEN.

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT SEVERAL AUTOMOBILES WERE RECENTLY BLOWN UP HERE IN SANA. I AM AFRAID WE CAN EXPECT MORE OF THIS KIND OF SABOTAGE AND

TERRORISM OVER THE MONTHS AHEAD AS THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
UNDER AL-HAMDI CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN ITS HOLD OVER THE
COUNTRY THUS MAKING IT INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY THAT DISSIDENTS
FROM EITHER THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT WILL BE IN A POSITION
TO MAKE A POLITICAL COMEBACK IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MEANWHILE,
YEMENIS OF ALL CLASSES AND POSITIONS PERSIST IN THEIR BELIEF
THAT SAUDI ARABIA COULD, IF IT WANTED, HELP THE CENTRAL REGIME MORE
VIS-A-VIS THE NORTHERN SHAYKHS. ONE WOULD HOPE, THEREFORE,
THAT PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI'S MEETING WITH THE SAUDI LEADER-
SHIP IN EARLY JULY PRIOR TO HIS PARIS VISIT WILL FINALLY
BRING SOME JOINT SAUDI/YEMENI SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM,
WHICH CONTINUES TO BEDEVIL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
STATES.

SCOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANA02301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770218-0666
Format: TEL
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770654/aaaabvbg.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6413777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2141529
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT ARRESTS OF TERRORISTS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, YE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6413777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009